

The listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the Claims:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (previously amended) Highly absorbent composite sheet comprising:  
a non-woven fabric substrate having a bulky structure;  
solid SAP partly contained inside said bulky structure and partly disposed on a surface of said non-woven substrate; and  
a hot-melt adhesive as a thermally fusible component, said hot-melt adhesive forming a fibrous network in a form of a mesh, said fibrous network contacting and covering said solid SAP so that said solid SAP is held in position.
2. (previously amended) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 1, further comprising fine cellulose disposed on the solid SAP as a layer, said fine cellulose being covered by the fibrous network.
3. (previously amended) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 1, wherein a coated amount of said hot-melt adhesive is 0.2 to 10 g / m<sup>2</sup>.
4. (previously amended) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 1, wherein said hot-melt adhesive is mainly composed of ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer and non-tacking.
5. (previously amended) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 4, wherein a content of vinyl acetate in ethylene-vinyl acetate which is a main composition of said hot-melt adhesive is 20 to 40 % by weight and a thermal fluidity rate of said hot-melt adhesive is 50 to 150 g / 10 minutes.
6. (cancelled)
7. (previously amended) A highly absorbent composite comprising:  
a composite absorbent including a non-woven substrate, a SAP layer, and a hot-melt adhesive layer forming a fibrous network in a

form of a mesh and substantially entirely covering said SAP layer, and

a sheet material disposed on said adhesive layer and bonded with said composite absorbent by said hot-melt adhesive layer by an adhesive property thereof to form a composite structure.

8.(previously amended) A highly absorbent composite comprising:

first and second composite absorbents, each comprising a non-woven substrate, an SAP layer, and a hot-melt adhesive layer forming a fibrous network in a form of a mesh and covering said SAP layer, said first composite absorbent being laid on the second composite absorbent such that said hot-melt adhesive layers contact to each other and are bonded together by an adhesive property thereof to form a two material composite structure.

9.(previously amended) The highly absorbent composite of claim 8, further comprising an additional sheet material interposed between said first and second composite absorbents and bonded thereto by an adhesive property of said hot-melt layers of said first and second composite absorbents to form a three material composite structure.

10-12.(cancelled)

13.(previously amended) A highly absorbent composite sheet comprising:

a non-woven substrate including a non-woven fabric with voids therein,

solid SAP partly disposed in the voids and distributed almost all over in layers on a surface of the non-woven fabric, and

a dual fibrous network covering a surface of the solid SAP, said dual fibrous network having a first fibrous network in a form of dense mesh comprising a hot-melt adhesive and a second fibrous network in a form of looser mesh positioned over said first fibrous network.

14.(previously amended) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 13, wherein said dual fibrous network substantially entirely

covers the solid SAP to thereby prevent the solid SAP from coming off.

15. (original) The highly absorbent composite sheet of claim 13, wherein the fibers of said hot-melt layer of dense mesh are finer than the fibers of said hot-melt layer of loose mesh.

16-23. (cancelled)